



REAL ESTATE

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The Evening Star

FEBRUARY 24, 1945.

WASHINGTON AND VICINITY

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## Gen. Mervin E. Gross Now Serving in China, Is Awarded DSM

Brig. Gen. Mervin E. Gross, 45, whose wife and daughter live at 1511 Forty-fourth street N.W., has been awarded the Distinguished Service Medal for his services as assistant chief of staff, director of military requirements and later as chief of the Requirements Division at Army Air Forces headquarters, War Department announced today.

Gen. Gross is now in China as acting chief of staff under Maj. Gen. Albert C. Wedemeyer.

During the period for which the award was given, March, 1942, to December, 1944, the citation says, Gen. Gross "established the standards for military characteristics required for all AAF aircraft, bombs, and associated material and equipment. He was directly responsible for and in major part personally brought about the changes and modification of existing designed with distinguished today's aircraft and equipment from that period in the opening months of the war."

Gen. Gross has served three details in Washington, the first beginning in 1933. He returned here in 1942, and served until last December, when he was sent to China. A graduate of West Point, in the class of 1922, he once served there as a mathematics instructor. His daughter, Jean, is a student at Barry College, Miami, Fla.

Brig. Gen. Robert M. Webster, 4008 Cathedral avenue N.W., also was listed on the War Department release as having been awarded the Distinguished Service Medal. A story about the award already has been published in The Star.

Pvt. Norbert Kraft, 20, a native of Germany serving in the United States Army, who was wounded on German soil last October, has been awarded the Silver Star for gallantry in action, according to the Associated Press.

His parents, Mr. and Mrs. Luis Kraft, who came to the United States five years ago, live at 4474 Reservoir road N.W.

Pvt. Kraft was born in Germany and attended schools there. He speaks English and German fluently, his mother said. He entered the Army in December, 1943, and went overseas last June, landing in France shortly after D day.

Two Brothers-in-Law Meet in Solomons

Two brothers-in-law, Jasper McBride, 35, of 123 East Walnut street, Alexandria, and Henry P. Harrison, 25, of Hopewell, Va., met in the Solomons for the first time since they've been in the Navy. Mr. McBride has learned in a letter from her husband.

Both men are stationed on repair ships and when their ships docked there, met when both were given liberty at the same time.

Mr. McBride, a printer, third class, is a linotype operator for the Alexandria Gazette, where he joined the Navy in February, 1944. He had served in the Mediterranean and South Pacific. The McBrides, who moved to Alexandria from Hopewell 13 years ago, have three children.

Metalsmith (Second Class) Harrison, Mrs. McBride's brother, entered the Navy last April. He was formerly a metal worker in Hopewell.

Fort Belvoir Art Entries To Be Judged on Monday

Fort Belvoir's entries in the National Art contest will be judged at the formal opening Monday at Services Club No. 1, Fifteenth and Middleton roads, Fort Belvoir, Va. Jim Berryman, cartoonist for The Star, will be the guest of honor.

Mr. Berryman will judge the graphic arts and illustrations; William F. Walter, past president of the Washington Landscape Club and a member of the Society of Washington Artists, will decide on the fine arts exhibits, and George R. Skadding, Washington representative of Life, Time and Fortune, will judge the photographic entries.

Special music will be provided by the 36th ASF Band, under the direction of Warrant Officer Jack Harper.

The exhibition will continue through Tuesday, after which the winners in each class will be forwarded to the War Department here for competition in the national contest.

The judges' decisions will be announced in the March 2 issue of the camp paper, the Belvoir Castle.

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## \$77,209 Paid Out For Income Tax Evasion Clues

By the Associated Press.

One way to make a living: An individual earned \$17,000 from Uncle Sam in the last fiscal year for furnishing information leading to the collection of \$917,000 of income taxes from "a large amusement concern."

That was the biggest of 65 rewards totaling \$77,209 paid for tax information during the 12 months ending last June 30. The figures were announced yesterday by the Internal Revenue Bureau.

The smallest reward last year was \$693 paid for information which led to the collection of \$108 of income tax from a man in the salvage business.

The Government has been paying these rewards for 60 years, but never makes public the names of the recipients.

## Budget Bureau Backs Free Registration Of Discharge Papers

Legislation cleared the Budget Bureau today to give District veterans one of the rights ex-servicemen enjoy in most other communities—the privilege of registering their discharge papers free of charge with the recorder of deeds.

Every serviceman leaving the armed forces is advised to protect his discharge certificate by having it recorded, but the recorder of deeds office explained that only papers relating to real or personal property can be recorded here under present law.

Frederick S. Weaver, deputy recorder, said that daily he has to turn away a dozen or more servicemen attempting to do what they had been told. District Court officials, he said, had offered to do the recording, but we told it was out of their jurisdiction.

The Commissioners sent a bill to the Budget Bureau for clearance on December 19 and got the bill back today from the Budget Bureau following approval by the War and Navy Departments and clearance by the Justice Department.

The bill authorizes the recorder to register the discharge papers free but charge for certified copies of the documents.

A Navy spokesman explained that servicemen were urged to register the discharge certificates in case they should lose the originals and have to prove their discharge quickly. Many employers, he said, ask for proof of discharge and if the papers are not at hand the veteran faces the tedious process of applying for copies. This might take so long that he would lose his job opportunity, it was pointed out.

## Southern Textile Pay Decision Assailed

By the Associated Press.

Industry members of the War Labor Board yesterday declared the WLB's decision in the textile case involving 23 Southern companies "may have serious repercussions on the entire Southern economy."

The four industry representatives dissented from the board's directives of Tuesday night dealing not only with the 23 Southern mills, but with 25 New England and six New York and Pennsylvania firms. Yesterday's statement applied only to the Southern situation, however.

The board's majority decision, still subject to approval of Economic Stabilization Director Vinson, raised the minimum for 50,000 cotton and rayon textile workers from 50 to 55 cents an hour and granted a 5-cent general increase to preserve job differentials.

Emil Rieve, president of the CIO-Textile Workers, quit as a labor member of the WLB in protest against what he termed its lack of authority in making this and other decisions final, rather than subject to the veto of Mr. Vinson or the OPA.

The industry members said the majority action conflicts with the executive order limiting "fringe" or secondary wage adjustments.

## Airline Seeks to Open New Route in Virginia

By the Associated Press.

RICHMOND, Va., Feb. 24.—The American Airlines, Inc., yesterday filed a formal petition with the State Corporation Commission for permission to operate aircraft in the transportation of passengers, property, mail and express between Richmond, Lynchburg, Roanoke, Bristol and Alexandria.

The commission ordered a hearing on the application at 10 a.m. March 15, and directed that American Airlines notify each common carrier of passengers operating in the listed territory.

Representatives of the Citizens Committee for the Improvement of College Park will hold two meetings next week to draft a final charter for incorporating the area.

Following a meeting last night at the University of Maryland Agriculture Building, attended by approximately 450 residents of the area and members of the county delegation to the General Assembly, committee representatives said the final draft of the charter hinges on whether or not to include Branchville in the incorporated area.

Two Meetings Planned.  
Dr. T. B. Symons, committee chairman, said the Subcommittee and the General Committee, at meetings Wednesday and Thursday, must decide if the Branchville area is to be arbitrarily included in order to take in Hollywood, Daniels Park and Oak Springs to the north, which voted in favor of incorporation, or whether this entire area will be left out of the plan.

An alternate plan, Dr. Symons said, might be to include this area, allow a separate referendum under the charter. In this way, he said, residents of this area alone could determine if they wanted to be included.

Opposing incorporation was Charles H. Houston, colored, a Washington attorney who represented residents of the Lakeland colored section. Mr. Houston pointed out that residents of this section were among the low income groups and incorporation would place additional tax burdens on them.

Fear Increased Taxes.  
Opposition to incorporation, in general, was based on increased taxes and the fact that residents of the area were satisfied now.

The College Heights Estates, and West College Park, an area of farm land, were excluded last week after residents of these sections expressed opposition.

Members of the county legislative delegation at last night's meeting included State Senator L. Harold Sotheron, and Delegates Leroy Pumphrey, Perry O. Wilkinson, Noah Joffe and Samuel D. Harvey.

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THE LEITER MANSION—This palatial home at 1500 New Hampshire avenue N.W., now occupied by the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics, will be torn down after the war to make way for a hotel. Until last month it was the property of one of the most colorful families in Washington society, the Leiters. Built by Levi Zeigler Leiter, financier, it became even more widely known during the lifetime of his son, the late Joseph Leiter, capitalist, "wheat king" and at one time president of the Washington Gas Light Co. The late Mrs. Joseph Leiter gave famous parties and organized the fashionable "Dancing Class" in the huge ballroom. Rented to the Government in 1941, the mansion was sold to Alvin C. Aubin, architect, as the postwar site for a hotel, the Dupont Plaza, by Thomas Leiter and Mrs. Charles Thomas Clagett, jr., the surviving Leiter children. Prominent residents of the Dupont Circle area protested the hotel project before the Zoning Commission and were successful in blocking proposed rezoning of the area to permit a building 90 feet high to have the same amount of yard space as a building 60 feet high. The mansion with its towering columns was sketched by Helen Gatch Durston.

## Court Approves Sale Of 2 Garden Markets

The sale of two of the three Country Garden Markets in Arlington for a total of \$36,000 was approved by Judge Walter G. McCarthy yesterday in Arlington County Circuit Court.

The Rosslyn store at Wilson boulevard and North Moore street was bought by the Giant Food Shopping Centers, Inc., for \$28,500, and the Lyon Park store at Washington boulevard and North Pershing drive by Sol Snyder, owner of the Fairfax Market, for \$8,000.

Sale of the Fairlington store in the Fairlington subdivision was postponed pending a hearing on creditors' claims set by Judge McCarthy for Wednesday. The sales, ordered as a result of a claim by a creditor, Leigh Lawrence, was recommended by Receiver Arthur Zinn, whom he said they were being operated at a loss. The purchasers announced they would continue to operate the stores after closing for a brief period for reorganization.

Formerly operated by Sam Shanker, Arlington, the stores were closed after he was suspended by the Office of Price Administration from dealing in rationed commodities as a result of a conviction on rationing violation charges. They were reopened last December under the direction of a finance company.

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Wakefield—\$24,950  
Beautiful home, corner homeite, 70 ft. by 100 ft. 2 blocks from Connecticut ave., same distance from Woodrow Wilson. All new. Ben Birch School: center-hall brick Colonial, large room 20x14, large dining room, de luxe kitchen, breakfast room, large bedroom, 2 beautiful tiled baths, brick fireplace, beautiful shrubbery, trees, recreation room, maid's room with bath, oil heat.

Bethesda, Md.—\$12,950  
Large brick home, living, dining rooms, modern kitchen, screened porch, built-in garage, 3 bedrooms, tiled bath; gas heat; large lot, trees. Vacant.

Bethesda, Md.—\$12,950  
Beautiful brick home on lot 88x100, large living, dining rooms, de luxe kitchen, 3 bedrooms, large closet, tiled bath with shower, porch; gas heat; only 3 yrs. old. In sight of grammar school.

Chevy Chase, Md.—\$12,500  
Beautiful brick home, large living, dining rooms, modern kitchen, 3 bedrooms, tiled bath; gas heat, large lot; vacant. March 15th; near shopping, transportation.

Mt. Pleasant, D. C.—Only \$13,950  
Beautiful home, detached: 1st floor, reception hall, living, dining rooms, modern kitchen, 3 bedrooms, tiled bath; gas heat; 1000 sq. ft. in yard; near Park road.

Brick Colonial—\$15,950  
Bethesda, Md.—Large living, dining rooms, modern kitchen, 3 bedrooms, tiled bath; gas heat; 1000 sq. ft. in yard; near Park road.

Mt. Vernon Colonial Brick \$29,500  
Chevy Chase, Md.—First floor, large living, dining rooms, with mahogany paneled walls, bedroom, tile bath, kitchen, breakfast room, modern kitchen, 2nd floor, 3 bedrooms, 2 tiled baths, 3rd floor, 2 bedrooms, homeite, 1000x200, overlooking Chevy Chase Golf Course.

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## Maryland Senate Gets Ferry Bond Issue Bill

By the Associated Press.  
ANNAPOLIS, Md., Feb. 24.—A bill before the Senate today, introduced by Senate Minority Leader Davis, would authorize a \$1,500,000 bond issue by the State for the acquisition of a new boat for the Chesapeake Bay ferry system and additional terminal facilities.

Mr. Davis urged adoption of the measure, terming the link between Western and Eastern shores of Maryland "precarious," because with one ferry boat now in drydock for repairs only one remained for traffic.

The Senator added that since the Gov. Albert C. Ritchie was condemned by the Federal Government and sold, only the Gov. Harry W. Nice and the John M. Dennis serviced the ferry system. The Dennis, he said, was incapable of accommodating high-body trucks. The new boat would be named the Gov. Herbert R. O'Connor.

Expansion of terminal facilities at Matapoke also was contemplated under the proposed bond issue, which would date from January 15, 1946. The bill was referred to the Finance Committee.

Distilled dry gins remain on the ration list, but all brands of rum may still be purchased on presentation of the ration book.

Officials of the board said liberalization of the whiskey ration still is not in sight, due to the lack of transportation, labor shortages at the distilleries, scarcity of packaging materials and other wartime causes.

McCann First Member Of 2-Gallon Blood Club

James McCann, Silver Spring businessman, became the community's first two-gallon club member when he made his 16th blood donation this week when the blood donor unit visited Silver Spring, Red Cross Chapter officials announced today.

Mr. McCann has a son and daughter in the armed services. New members of the Gallon Club are Donald Staley, Nicholas Hutchinson, Jr., E. P. Gardner, A. C. Landis, Milton Bollman, Mrs. Nelle Dinger, Mrs. Lucetta Whitman, Mrs. Ida Hathaway, Mrs. Ethelwyn Morton and Mrs. E. M. Whitcomb.

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## Brandy To Be Ration Free In Virginia Next Month

By the Associated Press.  
RICHMOND, Va., Feb. 24.—Partial liberalization of the liquor ration for March was announced yesterday by the State Alcoholic Beverage Control Board, but Virginia still will be required to get along on the same quantity of hard liquor they received during February—one "fifth" or one quart of whiskey or gin.

The liberalization is in the removal of all brands, domestic and imported, including the grape products, from the ration list. These items may be purchased ration free during March, but not in quantities exceeding a "fifth" a day, and only on presentation of the ration book.